

## VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

### PREVIEW SELECTION VOCABULARY

The following words appear in the story you're about to read. You may want to become familiar with them before you begin reading.

**sullenly** (sul'an-lē) *adv.*: resentfully; gloomily.

*Sullenly, the narrator took Doodle with him, all the while resenting the task.*

**imminent** (im'ə-nənt) *adj.*: near; about to happen.

*When thunder boomed and the sky darkened, they could tell the storm was **imminent**.*

**iridescent** (ir'i-des'ənt) *adj.*: rainbowlike; displaying a shifting range of colors.

*The bird's wings glowed with **iridescent** color.*

**serene** (sə-rēn') *adj.*: peaceful; calm.

*The **serene** lake was as smooth and calm as a mirror.*

**infallibility** (in-fal'ə-bil'ə-tē) *n.*: inability to make a mistake.

*Because of his belief in his **infallibility**, the narrator never doubted the success of his project.*

**blighted** (blīt'id) *v.* used as *adj.*: suffering from conditions that destroy or prevent growth.

*The **blighted** fields would never produce any corn or cotton.*

**doggedness** (dôg'id-nis) *n.*: stubbornness; persistence.

*Because of his **doggedness**, Doodle did learn to walk.*

**reiterated** (rē-it'ə-rāt'id) *v.*: repeated.

*Several times, the narrator **reiterated** his desire to teach Doodle to swim.*

**precariously** (pri-ker'ē-əs-lē) *adv.*: unsteadily; insecurely.

*Doodle balanced **precariously** on his thin legs.*

**mar** (mār) *v.*: damage; spoil.

*The storm could **mar** the cotton and other crops, causing the loss of acres of profits.*

### FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

**Figurative language** helps you see familiar things in new ways. The simplest type of figurative language, the **simile**, uses comparisons to create fresh, new meaning. A simile is a comparison between two dissimilar things linked by a word such as *like*, *as*, or *resembles*. For example:

The storm was as fierce as an angry lion.

In this simile, a storm is compared to a lion. Comparing a fierce storm to an angry lion helps readers see how violent and dangerous the storm was.

As you read "The Scarlet Ibis," look for other similes. Figure out what is being compared. Ask yourself: "What does this simile help me see? How does it help me understand the story more fully?"